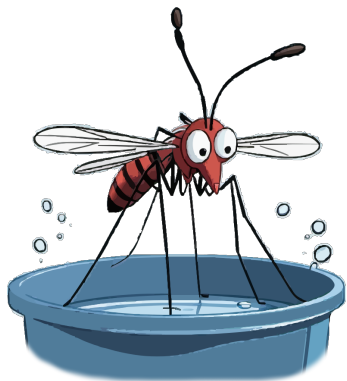


Managing Mosquitoes

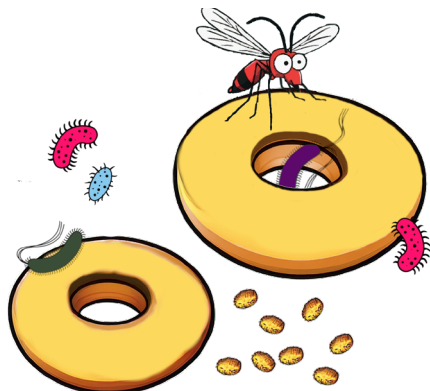
Several mosquito species pose human health risks in Florida. Help protect yourself, your family, and your neighbors with the following steps that help manage mosquito populations and impacts.

TIP #1: EMPTY CONTAINERS



Mosquitoes need just a bottlecap's worth of water to complete their life cycle. Regularly check around your home or building for standing water in potted plants, ditches, gutters, tires, toys, bottles, cans, and other containers, and empty water, as needed. When possible, flip over containers or bring them indoors, and dispose of any yard waste or debris that can hold water.

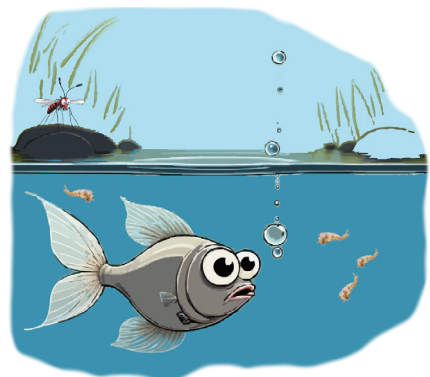
TIP #2: USE BTI AS NEEDED



For larger containers or standing water that can't be emptied, treat with Bti (*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis*), a safe microbial insecticide targeting mosquitoes and related insects.

Available as "bits" or "dunks" in stores or online, use Bti according to label instructions.

TIP #3: INTRODUCE MOSQUITOFISH



Consider adding native Eastern mosquitofish (*Gambusia holbrooki*) to your pond to control mosquito larvae. Each fish can consume up to 100 larvae daily!

Contact Sarasota County Mosquito Management or your local mosquito management service to see if you're eligible for free mosquitofish.

Managing Mosquitoes

TIP #4: WEAR LIGHT, LOOSE CLOTHES



Female mosquitoes need a blood meal to lay eggs, which is why they bite. They're attracted to dark colors and their mouth parts can pierce most fabrics.

To avoid bites, wear light-colored, loose-fitting, long-sleeved clothing with maximum coverage.

TIP #5: USE REPELLENT



In hot weather, full coverage isn't always practical. Protect exposed skin with an EPA-registered repellent:

DEET | picaridin | IR3535 | oil of lemon eucalyptus | 2-undecanone

Find a list of products with their average protection time at go.ufl.edu/repellents.

No matter your choice, always apply according to the label instructions.

TIP #6: AVOID PEAK ACTIVITY



Many mosquitoes are most active at dawn and dusk. Stay indoors or, if outside, wear protective clothing and use repellent.

When traveling, research mosquito-borne illness risks at your destination and consult your doctor, if needed.

LEARN MORE

For official updates and notifications about local mosquito efforts

- Web: scgov.net/mosquito
- Email or text alerts: alertsarasotacounty.com.
- Social media: @SRQCountyGov.

CONTACT US

Call 311 (or 941-861-5000) or email sarasota@ifas.ufl.edu.

